

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PLICANT:

EVANS ET AL.

ATT. REF. No. HO-P02228US1

APPLICATION NO.:

10/666,477

GROUP ART UNIT No. 3733

FILED:

SEPT. 18, 2003

TITLE:

PROSTHETIC DEVICES

\omega \omega **EMPLOYING OXIDIZED** ZIRCONIUM AND OTHER ABRASION RESISTANT SURFACES

CONTACTING

SURFACES OF CROSS-

LINKED

POLYETHYLENE

EXAMINER: A. R. REIMERS

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS P.O. Box 1450 ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313-1450

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION AND **RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION OF FEBRUARY 24, 2006**

In response to the final Office Action of February 24, 2006, Applicants respectfully submit a Request for Continued Examination under 37 CFR 1.114 and the following response.